

News

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

Internet address: <http://www.bls.gov/ro3/home.htm>

INFORMATION: Ann Freely
(215) 597-3282

MEDIA CONTACT: Gerald Perrins
(215) 861-5600

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HIGHLIGHTS OF RICHMOND-PETERSBURG, VA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY SEPTEMBER 2002

Workers in the Richmond-Petersburg metropolitan area averaged \$18.56 per hour during September 2002, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins reported that white-collar workers averaged \$21.47 per hour and accounted for 60 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$15.99 per hour and represented 24 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$10.53 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 218 firms representing 240,600 workers in the Richmond-Petersburg metropolitan area, which includes the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond; and the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and Prince George. Seventy percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Richmond-Petersburg metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for over 60 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged \$31.65 per hour; registered nurses, \$22.50; and secretaries, \$14.53. Blue-collar occupations included industrial machinery repairers earning \$24.66 per hour, truck drivers at \$15.02, and stock handlers and baggers at \$13.00. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$17.83 per hour; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$9.46; and janitors and cleaners, \$9.06.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Norfolk metropolitan area averaged \$19.32 per hour and part-timers earned \$11.95. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$18.44 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$14.86. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$15.40 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$21.35.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Richmond-Petersburg, VA National Compensation Survey September 2002 (Bulletin 3115-73). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Philadelphia Information Office by calling (215) 597-3282. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Philadelphia by dialing (215) 597-4153 and requesting documents 9815, 9816, 9817, 9818, and 9819.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Philadelphia Information Office at (215) 597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Richmond-Petersburg, VA, September 2002

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$18.56	4.1	\$18.43	5.1	\$18.88	7.0
All excluding sales	18.63	4.0	18.51	5.0	18.88	7.0
White collar	21.47	5.2	22.11	6.9	20.37	7.2
White collar excluding sales	21.94	4.9	23.02	6.5	20.37	7.2
Professional specialty and technical	27.04	5.1	30.14	9.2	24.32	5.4
Professional specialty	28.63	5.2	32.54	10.3	25.41	3.4
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	30.89	15.7	37.18	13.5	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineers	35.79	9.9	35.79	9.9	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	31.66	4.3	33.02	7.7	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	31.65	4.3	33.02	7.9	—	—
Natural scientists	24.11	6.6	27.57	9.4	—	—
Health related	25.15	6.2	23.87	2.4	29.21	16.9
Registered nurses	22.50	4.0	22.60	4.7	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	24.89	.9	—	—	24.90	.9
Elementary school teachers	25.60	3.8	—	—	25.64	4.0
Secondary school teachers	23.88	.3	—	—	23.74	.3
Librarians, archivists, and curators	24.52	5.2	—	—	24.63	6.2
Librarians	24.52	5.2	—	—	24.63	6.2
Social scientists and urban planners	24.42	5.6	23.25	17.7	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	17.34	11.4	—	—	17.15	12.3
Social workers	17.15	12.3	—	—	17.15	12.3
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	18.57	6.5	19.69	8.7	17.17	7.5
Licensed practical nurses	16.64	.5	16.76	.7	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	14.04	14.8	13.30	15.0	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	29.12	5.1	29.71	5.9	26.06	5.0
Executives, administrators, and managers	31.95	6.3	32.13	7.0	30.83	13.1
Administrators and officials, public administration	31.66	17.5	—	—	33.31	18.9
Financial managers	34.22	9.4	34.22	9.4	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	30.07	11.7	30.54	12.0	—	—
Management related	26.15	8.1	27.03	9.4	22.34	4.3
Accountants and auditors	23.84	4.7	25.60	5.2	21.26	7.1
Other financial officers	26.26	11.5	25.42	15.0	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	35.12	17.8	35.49	17.6	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	22.39	7.8	22.61	7.8	—	—
Sales	17.62	16.2	17.64	16.3	—	—
Supervisors, sales	22.62	11.5	22.62	11.5	—	—
Sales, other business services	23.13	10.7	23.13	10.7	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	11.95	10.0	11.95	10.0	—	—
Cashiers	7.31	4.0	7.26	3.7	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	13.28	2.3	13.58	3.1	12.75	2.7
Computer operators	17.95	3.2	17.97	3.3	—	—
Secretaries	14.53	2.2	14.66	4.4	14.45	2.4
Receptionists	10.77	6.4	10.77	6.4	—	—
Information clerks, n.e.c.	10.54	8.3	10.54	8.3	—	—
Order clerks	16.30	12.3	16.30	12.3	—	—
Library clerks	10.10	13.6	—	—	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	11.32	8.5	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	14.19	3.8	13.52	5.9	—	—
Dispatchers	15.45	18.1	—	—	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	11.88	9.0	11.88	9.0	—	—
Insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators	14.90	5.8	14.90	5.8	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	13.49	3.4	13.22	2.8	—	—
Bill and account collectors	14.66	7.0	14.66	7.0	—	—
General office clerks	11.87	5.2	12.68	7.9	11.01	2.6
Data entry keyers	13.07	13.6	13.07	13.6	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Richmond-Petersburg, VA, September 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar —Continued						
Administrative support, including clerical —Continued						
Teachers' aides	\$11.48	7.9	—	—	\$11.52	8.2
Administrative support, n.e.c.	13.12	4.4	\$13.77	5.8	12.22	6.5
Blue collar	15.99	2.6	15.85	2.5	17.28	11.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.52	4.7	19.55	5.3	19.36	10.5
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	25.85	5.1	25.18	12.2	—	—
Industrial machinery repairers	24.66	6.9	24.79	6.9	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	18.65	8.3	19.13	12.6	—	—
Supervisors, production	28.01	9.4	28.01	9.4	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	15.68	8.2	15.68	8.2	—	—
Slicing and cutting machine operators	15.63	1.3	15.63	1.3	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	20.30	9.5	20.30	9.5	—	—
Assemblers	12.14	7.8	12.14	7.8	—	—
Transportation and material moving	13.86	4.0	14.03	4.3	12.57	2.4
Truck drivers	15.02	5.7	15.46	6.4	—	—
Bus drivers	14.39	7.3	—	—	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	13.81	3.5	13.81	3.5	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.27	5.5	12.23	5.8	13.02	11.7
Supervisors, handlers, equipment cleaners, and laborers, n.e.c.	16.61	10.6	—	—	—	—
Production helpers	13.52	12.2	13.52	12.2	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	13.00	15.1	13.00	15.1	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	12.30	8.1	12.30	8.1	—	—
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners	10.42	14.5	10.42	14.5	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	9.77	7.1	9.77	7.1	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	12.93	8.5	12.79	10.3	—	—
Service	10.53	7.0	8.58	6.0	13.56	9.8
Protective service	15.09	14.0	9.44	13.5	17.60	10.0
Police and detectives, public service	17.83	3.6	—	—	17.83	3.6
Guards and police, except public service	8.94	10.1	8.96	10.4	—	—
Food service	7.96	13.1	7.65	13.9	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	6.14	23.1	6.14	23.1	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	6.17	30.8	6.17	30.8	—	—
Other food service	9.39	8.4	9.03	8.1	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	9.48	10.2	9.48	10.2	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	8.00	9.4	7.86	11.6	—	—
Health service	9.57	3.3	9.58	4.0	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.46	2.1	9.45	2.6	—	—
Cleaning and building service	9.08	2.2	9.03	3.0	9.16	3.8
Janitors and cleaners	9.06	3.1	8.96	6.1	9.16	3.8
Personal service	10.09	14.0	7.73	13.2	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. **Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Richmond-Petersburg, VA, September 2002**

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$19.32	\$11.95	\$18.59	\$18.56	\$18.28	\$28.37
All excluding sales	19.25	12.71	18.59	18.63	18.56	23.68
White collar	22.13	15.24	19.99	21.51	21.12	30.71
White-collar excluding sales	22.29	17.90	19.99	21.99	21.86	—
Professional specialty and technical	26.93	28.32	—	27.09	27.00	—
Professional specialty	28.62	28.77	—	28.63	28.64	—
Technical	18.63	—	—	18.35	18.57	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	29.13	—	—	29.12	29.12	—
Sales	20.59	7.41	—	17.62	13.31	32.43
Administrative support, including clerical	13.75	9.50	19.62	12.87	13.28	—
Blue collar	16.50	8.09	18.44	14.86	15.92	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.52	—	20.76	19.05	19.38	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	15.82	—	17.81	13.80	15.70	—
Transportation and material moving	14.28	9.95	15.52	13.03	13.86	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	13.24	7.60	17.68	10.80	12.25	—
Service	11.34	7.49	—	10.54	10.52	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	4.5	13.5	3.1	4.4	3.8	18.6
All excluding sales	4.5	14.0	3.1	4.3	4.0	13.0
White collar	5.6	15.9	3.3	5.3	4.8	22.0
White-collar excluding sales	5.4	15.1	3.3	5.0	4.9	—
Professional specialty and technical	5.6	9.9	—	5.1	5.2	—
Professional specialty	5.7	9.9	—	5.2	5.3	—
Technical	6.6	—	—	6.9	6.5	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	5.1	—	—	5.1	5.1	—
Sales	17.5	2.5	—	16.2	17.3	32.9
Administrative support, including clerical	2.3	4.5	4.7	2.4	2.3	—
Blue collar	2.6	3.8	3.8	3.3	2.6	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.7	—	3.3	6.7	4.8	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.1	—	14.0	3.1	8.3	—
Transportation and material moving	5.4	18.7	6.0	3.5	4.1	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.5	2.6	5.7	4.3	5.5	—
Service	7.1	8.2	—	7.0	7.0	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Richmond-Petersburg, VA, September 2002**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$18.43	\$15.40	\$19.39	\$17.99	\$21.35
All excluding sales	18.51	15.43	19.30	17.53	21.70
White collar	22.11	19.04	23.06	23.01	23.12
White-collar excluding sales	23.02	21.71	23.28	22.77	23.77
Professional specialty and technical	30.14	28.33	30.53	31.03	30.09
Professional specialty	32.54	29.37	33.23	35.50	31.42
Technical	19.69	—	18.71	16.76	21.74
Executive, administrative, and managerial	29.71	25.55	30.79	26.74	36.24
Sales	17.64	15.29	20.92	24.57	10.57
Administrative support, including clerical	13.58	11.16	13.95	13.83	14.06
Blue collar	15.85	13.09	16.53	14.88	19.27
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.55	17.37	20.16	19.05	22.00
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	15.68	12.26	15.97	13.36	19.34
Transportation and material moving	14.03	13.00	14.31	13.86	15.26
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.23	9.23	13.39	11.82	16.73
Service	8.58	8.37	8.72	8.43	9.96
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	5.1	6.5	6.1	8.6	7.6
All excluding sales	5.0	6.8	5.8	7.0	7.7
White collar	6.9	7.2	7.6	11.5	8.6
White-collar excluding sales	6.5	5.3	7.2	9.5	8.6
Professional specialty and technical	9.2	3.2	11.4	20.6	7.7
Professional specialty	10.3	2.8	12.6	23.8	7.4
Technical	8.7	—	8.1	11.5	6.3
Executive, administrative, and managerial	5.9	13.2	5.7	5.1	7.2
Sales	16.3	13.8	26.8	29.9	4.3
Administrative support, including clerical	3.1	2.6	3.3	4.4	4.1
Blue collar	2.5	7.8	3.4	4.2	4.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.3	6.3	6.9	9.2	5.0
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.2	9.1	8.4	2.3	13.4
Transportation and material moving	4.3	14.9	6.3	9.2	3.4
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.8	4.8	6.6	4.7	8.3
Service	6.0	9.4	6.5	7.6	6.4

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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